Anti-Dumping cases

2590. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 81 per cent of anti-dumping cases initiated in 2003-04, provisional or final anti-dumping were recommended or imposed;

(b) whether it is a fact that in several of these cases the main consideration was an increase in the share of imports from the foreign firms inspite of growth of sales and profits of domestic industry; and

(c) since growth in imports is natural with trade liberalization, what measures Government are taking to ensure that anti-dumping remedy is used not merely to restrict competition but of provide relief from injury?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir. During 2003-04, Anti-Dumping investigations were initiated in 14 cases. Out of these, preliminary/final findings had been issued in13 cases. Duty was not recommended in 3 cases. In one case the petition was withdrawn by the domestic industry. Measures imposed are in 10 cases.

(b) and (c) As per the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 as amended in 1995 and the Rules framed, thereunder, Anti-dumping investigations are normally initiated by the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) on receiving a fully documented petition from the domestic industry with prima-facie evidence of dumping, injury and casual link between the dumped goods and injury to the domestic industry. The purpose of Anti-dumping duties is to counteract trade distortion caused by dumping and the consequential injury to the domestic industry. Anti-dumping measures are taken for ensuring fair trade and is not a measure to restrict competition.

Discussions with Director-General of WTO

2591. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director-General of the WTO, Pascal Lamy had visited the country and held discussions at the Ministerial level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decisions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) During his visit to New Delhi from 5-7 April 2006, Mr. Pascal Lamy, Director General, World Trade Organisation (WTO), held ministerial level consultations with the Minister of Commerce and Industry and Finance Ministry. During these consultations, the main issue that camp up was on ways and means to meet the approaching deadline of 30th April 2006 for finalizing the modalities on negotiations on Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) as decided by the Ministers at the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference held in Hong Kong, China, from 13-18 December 2005. Besides this, he also held discussions on the other issues covered by the WTO Doha Work Programme. During these discussions, the Government reiterated its concerns and interests in the on going negotiations under the Doha Work Programme and on the need to deliver pro development outcomes applicable to all WTO Members, which meet the aspirations of the diverse group of countries, especially the developing countries. Since, these consultations were informal in nature, no decision was required to be taken.

Trade with Sri Lanka

2592. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the visit of the Sri Lanka Foreign Minister to New Delhi in December, 2005, a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with Sri Lanka was reached;

(b) if so, the terms and salient features of the agreement; and

(c) the imports from the exports to Sri Lanka during the financial year 2003-04, 2004-05 and the current financial year, so far, item-wise and how far the trade with Sri Lanka is likely to increase during the following years in pursuance of the new agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The major items of imports from Sri Lanka during the last three years are Non-Ferrous Metals, Spices, Electric Machinery except Electronics, Machinery except Electric and Electronics, Electronic Goods,